

Message Text

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04859 281400Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 281310Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7708

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 4859

EXDIS

FOR ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, IS, US
SUBJ: ISRAELI COMPLAINT: LACK OF SECURITY INFORMATION

REF: TEL AVIV 4642

1. JULY 25 HAARETZ CARRIED AP STORY (DATELINED WASHINGTON, JULY 24) UNDER HEADLINE "US INTELLIGENCE SOURCES: ISRAEL HAS MOBILIZED 7000 TROOPS FOR SINAI..." DAO OFFICERS WERE BEARDED SAME DAY BY IDF INTELLIGENCE CHIEF GAZIT WHO ASKED WHERE THIS INFORMATION, WHICH HE HAD PROVIDED TO US, HAD BEEN LEAKED TO PRESS. THE STORY (BELOW) CARRIES SUFFICIENT RESEMBLANCE TO EMBASSY'S REPORTING CABLE (REF), ESPECIALLY MENTION OF SPECIFIC NUMBERS OF ISRAELI TROOPS, TO MAKE GAZIT'S CONCERN PLAUSIBLE. REFERENCE TO INFO ON RADAR GUIDED MISSILES HAS LED ISRAELIS TO CONCLUSION THAT STORY LEAKED IN WASHINGTON, SINCE GAZIT CLAIMED INFO WAS NEWS TO HIM.

2. WE ARE, OF COURSE, NOT CONCEDED TO ANYBODY HERE THAT US LEAKED THIS INFO. BUT IF THE ISRAELIS ARE RIGHT, IT IS GOING TO REINFORCE IDF SUSPICIONS ABOUT USE MADE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFO PROVIDED TO EMBASSY.

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 04859 281400Z

3. TEXT OF AP STORY AS CARRIED HERE:

"U.S. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES REPORTED TODAY THAT ISRAEL HAS MOBILIZED 7000 RESERVE TROOPS, AFTER

THE EGYPTIAN THREAT LAST WEEK NOT TO EXTEND THE
UNEF MANDATE IN SINAI.

ISRAELI OFFICIALS REPORTED TO U.S. DIPLOMATS IN
ISRAEL ABOUT THE CALL-UP, AND EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS
A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN IN
REACTION TO EGYPTIAN STEPS WHICH ALSO INCLUDED
THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY.

U.S. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES REPORTED THAT THE
EGYPTIANS HAVE PLACED A NUMBER OF UNITS ON A
STATE OF ALERT, HAVE CANCELLED ALL LEAVES, HAVE
CALLED UP PART OF THE RESERVES AND HAVE PUT OFF
THE RELEASE OF ABOUT 5000 OFFICERS FROM THE ARMY.
ONE OF THE EGYPTIAN STEPS WHICH DREW THE ATTENTION
BOTH OF THE U.S. AND OF ISRAEL ON ITSELF WAS THE
STATIONING OF RADAR GUIDED MISSILES (ANTI-AIRCRAFT)
AT A DISTANCE OF ABOUT SEVEN KMS. FROM THE WEST
BANK OF THE SUEZ CANAL. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAVE PLACED SUCH MISSILES IN
THIS REGION SINCE THEY SIGNED THE DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT 18 MONTHS AGO. THESE MISSILES ARE
MEANT TO DEFEND EGYPTIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS
ALONG THE CANAL IN THE EVENT OF A N ATTACK ON THE
ISRAELI FORCES IN SINAI.

U.S. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES POINTED OUT THAT OTHER
ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE NOT TAKEN MILITARY STEPS. THE
SOURCES ARE WORRIED THAT ONE OF THE SIDES MIGHT GO
TOO FAR IN ITS "MILITARY GESTURES" AND MIGHT BRING
ABOUT THE OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING EVEN IF IT HAS
NOT BEEN INTENDED. THE SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED THE
HOPE THAT EGYPT'S DECISION OF JULY 23 TO EXTEND
THE UNEF MANDATE IN SINAI WILL REDUCE THE TENSION
ALONG THE FRONT".
TOON

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